



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: Wednesday, June 20, 2007 -- 07-026
District: District 2 - Redding
Contact: Denise Yergenson
Phone: (530) 225-3260

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Letter of Authorization Signed

REDDING – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) on June 4, 2007 attended a signing ceremony recognizing a partnership between the CDFG and the Greenville and Susanville Indian Rancheria's Tribal Governments approving of a Letter of Authorization (LOA) allowing tribes to utilize big game carcasses killed on state routes. The LOA will allow the tribes to "acquire accidentally killed, illegally killed or depredated big game mammals for traditional ceremonial and spiritual purposes." The LOA allows Caltrans to contact the CDFG when dead big game mammals are found on state facilities. The CDFG will then contact selected tribal representatives who will work with the CDFG Patrol Lieutenant for the Lassen/Plumas counties prior to removal of any animal.

It is universal throughout Native American religion that these animals, especially the bear, are honored and allowed to live on as spirits by being part of the ceremonial dance regalia. Native Americans honor these animals because they understand the interconnection between all things plant, animal, water or mineral. This is a pilot program and is open to review each year. The lead agency for the program is the Department of Fish and Game.

###

NOTE: An electronic version of this news release is available on the Internet at the following web address: <http://caltrans2.info/roadinfo.htm>

Shown in Picture left to right: Erika Kellison, Tribal-Chair Greenville Rancheria; Brian Crane, Caltrans District Director; Nancy Foley, CDFG Chief of Enforcements; Stacy Dixon, Tribal-Chair Susanville Indian Rancheria and Larry Myers, Director of the California Native American Heritage Commission.

